

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 ACDA-12 MCE-00 PM-05 NSC-05

SS-15 /072 W

-----052132 092238Z /73

R 091452Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7656

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1498

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, SL, LI

SUBJ: VISIT OF LIBERIAN VICE PRESIDENT WARNER

1. LIBERIAN VICE PRESIDENT BISHOP BENNIE WARNER PAID A THREE-DAY UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE MAY 6-8 AS THE GUEST OF THE BAUGHMAN MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH. ALTHOUGH AN UNOFFICIAL VISITOR HE WAS ACCORDED HONORS ON HIS ARRIVAL WHEN HE WAS MET BY PRIME MINISTER KAMARA-TAYLOR AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HARRY WILLIAMS. HE WAS LODGED AT THE OFFICIAL GUEST HOUSE AND SEEN OFF BY VICE PRESIDENT S.I. KOROMA AND OTHER NOTABLES.

2. DURING A BUFFET LUNCH HOSTED BY VICE PRESIDENT KOROMA PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, WARNER MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR CLOSER SIERRA LEONE/LIBERIA COOPERATION THROUGH THE MANO RIVER UNION SO THAT "LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE COULD HAVE A GREATER VOICE IN THE COUNCILS OF ECOWAS AND THE OAU". HE ALSO VOICED THE HOPE THAT HE AND VICE PRESIDENT KOROMA COULD ENJOY EVEN CLOSER PERSONAL RELATIONS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WARNER'S VISIT PUBLICLY WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATED TO HIS ROLE AS A BISHOP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, IT CAME AT A TIME WHEN SIERRA LEONE/LIBERIA RELATIONS APPEAR STRAINED AS A RESULT OF WIDELY ADVERTISED CHARGES THAT SOME LIBERIANS ARE SMUGGLING ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO SIERRA LEONE. SUNDAY, MAY 7 EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL APC NEWSPAPER "WE YONE" REPORTS THE CONVICTION OF TWO LIBERIANS ON CHARGES OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF TWO SHOTGUNS AND 850 ROUNDS OF

AMMUNITION AND AN ONGOING HUNT FOR THREE OTHER LIBERIANS  
CHARGED WITH HAVING FOUR MORE SHOTGUNS AND 150 ROUNDS OF  
AMMUNITION. MINISTER OF JUSTICE FRANCIS MINAH PREVIOUSLY  
TOLD EMBOFFS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION BEING SMUGGLED INTO  
SIERRA LEONE FROM LIBERIA BY SUPPORTERS OF THE OPPOSITION SLPP.  
(FREETOWN 294). THERE ARE ALSO INCREASING RUMORS THAT SIERRA  
LEONE'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MANO RIVER UNION MAY BE COOLING.  
END EMBASSY COMMENT.  
NORTH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VICE PRESIDENT, VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, OVIP, SL, LI, (WARNER, BENNIE)  
**To:** MONROVIA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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